

Meeting led by: Randy Hamchand

Minutes taker: Cristian Aviles-Martin

Summary of Events:

My Journey to the PhD, talk by Erik M. Hines Ph.D.

(see attached biography provided by speaker)

Presentation dealing with how personal background influences your time during graduate studies. Dealing with your advisor and other cohort members. Discussed importance of improving writing skills and developing an effective research topic. Presented past and ongoing projects such as Scholars House and counseling for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

Thesis Defense Practice, by Randi Hamchand

Work on the study of porphyrins used as dyes and sensors. Essentially, emulating process that commonly occur in nature. First project deals with the development of an extraction protocol for Biliverdin IX α from emu eggshells. The process ended up being relatively simple, essentially consisting of a cleaning and esterification step. Afterwards, simple purification was achieved. The project was proposed as an undergraduate organic chemistry teaching lab experiment. Afterwards, proceeded to study the porphyrin presence in quills of hedgehogs and porcupines. Developed extraction methodology for hedgehog quills, with which the presence of porphyrins was confirmed. From the results it was confirmed that the porphyrin present in hedgehog quill is not one of the three main known biologically generated porphyrins.

Questions and answers

Conclusions

Final Remarks

BIO

Erik M. Hines, Ph.D.

Dr. Erik M. Hines is an associate professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Hines teaches in the Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology program and prepares graduate students to be professional school counselors. Dr. Hines's research agenda centers around: (a) African American male academic achievement and college readiness; (b) parental involvement and its impact on academic achievement for students of color; and (c) improving and increasing postsecondary opportunities for first generation, low-income, and students of color (particularly African American males). Additionally, his research interests include career exploration in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) for students of color in K-12. Dr. Hines has secured research funding to study the college readiness and persistence of African American males to improve their academic and career outcomes. Further, Dr. Hines has worked on several grants aimed at increasing awareness of STEM careers for students of color and rural students. His research has appeared in peer-reviewed journals, such as the Journal of Counseling and Development, Professional School Counseling, and The High School Journal. Dr. Hines received his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, College Park in Counselor Education with a concentration in Urban School Counseling. Finally, he has worked as a counselor in various K- 12 settings and for the Ronald E McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.